

These are the things, excessive gratuitous violence, that the industry agrees with in their code, but they continue to violate.

That is why I say this is a historic moment, to get a measure that the best of minds have said is what is needed. Otherwise, the industry associates—writers, producers and everyone else—follow exactly what they found in the history of broadcasting in the 1950s, 40-some years ago, that violence pays.

I retain the remainder of our time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Senator from South Carolina for raising a number of important issues concerning the quality of TV programming and other programming.

I remember very distinctly a number of years ago I was watching when the Pope came to California and in Hollywood met with top executives. He met with them, encouraged them, and urged them to do a better job, and to start to clean up some of the things being shown on television.

When the program was over, they came out to the TV cameras. They interviewed each one of these executives and asked what happened, and what they thought. They said the Pope had made a number of very important suggestions that deserved great consideration and they thought they could make some progress toward his goals.

Charlton Heston came out. They asked: Mr. Heston, what do you think? Mr. Heston, do you think things will get better? Mr. Heston said: If the Lord himself were speaking to them, they wouldn't change. The only thing they are looking at is the rating.

Since then, things have continued to get worse. I have always remembered that. I think it is fair to say that violence apparently pays. They are looking for ratings and money. It does leave us with a difficult question of what we can do to make this a healthier society, a society that is better for raising children.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

#### NATO'S MISTAKEN BOMBING OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN BELGRADE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, all Americans were disturbed and very sorry about NATO's mistaken bombing

of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. The President has apologized to the Chinese people, and it was, of course, appropriate for him to do so. I think it is also right that those responsible for this tragic error are held accountable for their mistake. I know that neither apologies nor other responses will alleviate the suffering of those who lost loved ones in the bombing. But America does sincerely regret what happened, and as inadequate as that might be to a grieving parent or spouse or friend, it will have to be enough for the Government of China.

It is outrageous that Beijing would claim, suggest or even hint to the Chinese people that the bombing was intentional. It was a mistake and the leaders of China know that. They do us and themselves a great disservice by pretending otherwise. States that aspire to be great powers should not indulge paranoid delusions as a means of motivating their people. The political consequences are seldom predictable or as easy to manage as they might have anticipated.

America and China have a complex, important, and very consequential relationship that will, in large part, shape the history of the next century. That relationship should not be jeopardized as cavalierly as Beijing has allowed it to be jeopardized over these last few days.

China must cease immediately fueling anti-Americanism and tolerating the attacks it engendered on our embassy and on Americans in China. China should cease immediately its calumnies against the United States. America is a just power, and the greatest force for good on Earth. A very regrettable accident does not change that historical fact, and Beijing knows it. Finally, China should cease immediately to threaten the other elements of our relationship, be they human rights discussions, anti-proliferation cooperation or trade agreements. A sound bilateral relationship is a vital interest for both of us, and, indeed, for the world. Both countries' leaders must conduct themselves with that priority in mind at all times.

China should accept our apology confident that it is sincere, and begin to play a constructive role in helping to persuade Milosevic that he must accede to the just demands of humanity, and the, I hope, nonnegotiable demands of NATO.

Terrible things happen in war. People often make bad mistakes in the fog of battle. That is why decent people try to avoid resolving their differences by force of arms. But that is not always possible. The enemy of peace and justice in the Balkans, Milosevic and his regime, are not decent people. They are the cause of this war, and, thus, are ultimately responsible for the tragedy that occurred last week, and the suffering of the people of Serbia. Furthermore, the calamity that Serbia is now experiencing, as awful as it is, in no way approximates the scale of the hor-

ror that has been visited on the Kosovars. Let us be clear about that, Mr. President. Should Mr. Milosevic observe the most basic standards of human decency no bombs would fall anywhere in the Balkans.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 11, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,575,359,326,029.03 (Five trillion, five hundred seventy-five billion, three hundred fifty-nine million, three hundred twenty-six thousand, twenty-nine dollars and three cents).

One year ago, May 11, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,487,765,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred eighty-seven billion, seven hundred sixty-five million).

Five years ago, May 11, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,575,659,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred seventy-five billion, six hundred fifty-nine million).

Ten years ago, May 11, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,765,542,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred sixty-five billion, five hundred forty-two million).

Fifteen years ago, May 11, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,480,589,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty billion, five hundred eighty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,094,770,326,029.03 (Four trillion, ninety-four billion, seven hundred seventy million, three hundred twenty-six thousand, twenty-nine dollars and three cents) during the past 15 years.

#### THE GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced a bill to assist in the preservation of the great apes. The bill, the "Great Ape Conservation Act of 1999", is modeled after the highly successful African and Asian Elephant Conservation Acts, and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act. It will authorize up to \$5 million per year to fund various projects to aid in the preservation of the endangered great apes.

Great ape populations currently face many threats, including habitat loss, population fragmentation, live capture, and hunting for the bushmeat trade. Of all these threats, the danger posed by the increasing bushmeat trade is the most severe. This trade is being facilitated by the construction of in-roads to logging areas, which allows once remote forests to be linked directly with urban markets.

Chimpanzees, gorillas, and bonobos, once hunted sustainably, now face population destruction due to increased illegal trade, powerful weapons, and high market prices. This consumption of ape meat not only threatens ape populations, but poses severe health risks to humans. Human contraction of many viruses, including the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) has